

MEMO

DATE: May 6, 2004

TO: Transportation & Communications Committee

FROM: Rosemary Ayala, Lead Regional Planner, SCAG
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RE: Status of Draft 2004 Regional Transportation Improvement Program

RECOMMENDED ACTION:

Information Only.

SUMMARY: As the Regional Council adopted the Regional Transportation Plan (RTP) in April, SCAG is now required to adopt a 2004 Regional Transportation Improvement Program (RTIP) which is the funding program that serves to implement the RTP.

The Draft 2004 Regional Transportation Improvement Program (RTIP) is scheduled for release on June 18, 2004, for a 30-day public review and comment period. The Regional Council is scheduled to adopt the Final 2004 RTIP on August 5th. The 2004 RTIP will implement projects identified in the 2004 Regional Transportation Plan (RTP).

BACKGROUND:

SCAG is required under both federal and state law to develop an RTIP (23 U.S.C. §134 (h); Cal. Government Code §§14527, 65082 and 130301 et seq.). The RTIP is the short-range program that implements the long-range Regional Transportation Plan (RTP).

As the designated Metropolitan Planning Organization (MPO) [under Federal law] and as the multi-county designated transportation planning agency (under State law) for the six-county Southern California region, SCAG develops the RTIP in cooperation with the State (Caltrans), the county transportation commissions and Imperial Valley Association of Governments, and public transit operators.

- The RTIP is a capital listing of all transportation projects proposed over a six-year period for the SCAG region funded by state, federal, and local funds.
- Updated at least every two years, adopted by SCAG, and then sent to the Governor and federal funding agencies for approval.
- Compatible with the State Transportation Improvement Program (STIP) development and approval process.
- Subject to compliance with the conformity requirements in the federally designated non-attainment and maintenance areas.

MEMO

- Consistent with the long-range Regional Transportation Plan (RTP) as the RTIP implements the projects in the RTP.

The SCAG region is currently in the process of developing the 2004 RTIP. The SCAG 2004 RTIP covers the six-year period from FY 2004/2005 to 2009/2010.

ISSUES:

The impact of the State's budget shortfall on the 2004 State Transportation Improvement Program (STIP) is that there is virtually no new funding capacity. Projects are delayed and pushed out over a five-year period. In addition, Transportation Congestion Relief funded projects may lose their funding due to the State budget shortfall. Some of the projects have received approval but funding is not available. Examples of such projects are:

- LOS ANGELES -- Alameda Corridor East; build grade separation on BNSF & UP RR lines, downtown LA to co line ACE
- ORANGE COUNTY -- ON SR-22 (I-405 TO SR55) Add 2 HOV lanes 1 each direction (FRM 0 - 2) & 2 auxiliary lanes 1 in each direction (FRM 0-2). (I-5 TO BEACH) & OPERATING IMPROVEMENTS.
- RIVERSIDE COUNTY -- Rte 91; add HOV lanes through downtown Riverside, Mary St to Rte 60/215 jct in Riverside County.
- SAN BERNARDINO COUNTY -- Route 10; widen freeway to eight-lanes through Redlands, Route 30 to Ford Street in San Bernardino County.
- VENTURA COUNTY -- Rte 101; California St off-ramp in Ventura Co.

Two of the conformity requirements that an RTIP must meet are Financial Constraint and Timely Implementation of Transportation Control Measures (TCMs). These two requirements are especially difficult to meet in the development of the 2004 RTIP. The difficulty stems from the State budget issues. Also, the Federal Reauthorization is still pending and final funding levels for such funds as Congestion Mitigation Air Quality, Surface Transportation Program and Federal Transit Administration Section 5307 funds are unknown at this time. SCAG staff, county transportation commissions and Imperial Valley Association of Governments are working closely in the development of the 2004 RTIP.

Currently, the SCAG Regional Council is scheduled to adopt the 2004 RTIP at its August 5, 2004 meeting which is also the date scheduled for the adoption of the 2004 STIP by the California Transportation Commission. If the 2004 STIP changes from what is programmed in the 2004 RTIP, it may be necessary for SCAG to make adjustments to the 2004 RTIP. Therefore, the 2004 RTIP adoption schedule may be subject to change.

The 2004 RTIP is still in the working draft stage. The programming amounts and number of projects by county at this time are reflected in the table below.

2004 RTIP (Working Draft)

County	Total # of Projects Programmed	Amount Programmed (in \$000's)
Imperial	40	338,771
Los Angeles	861	10,400,264
Orange	209	6,364,639
Riverside	196	1,933,305
San Bernardino	405	3,885,644
Ventura	213	771,503
Total	1,924	23,694,126

SCHEDULE

The Draft 2004 RTIP is scheduled for release in June for a 30-day public review and comment period. There will be a public hearing scheduled in each of the six counties in the SCAG region and an additional public hearing conducted at the SCAG offices.

Adoption Schedule for the 2004 Regional Transportation Improvement Program (Consistency with the 2004 Regional Transportation Plan)

June 18, 2004	30-Day Public Review period starts
June/July, 2004	Presentation of 2004 RTIP to RTAC to fulfill AB1246 requirement
Mid June – Mid July, 2004	Public Hearings
July 1, 2004	Transportation and Communications Committee
August 5, 2004	Regional Council scheduled to adopt RTIP
August 11, 2004	Report transmitted to Caltrans, FHWA, FTA, EPA

